

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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R 011400Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9619

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COLCOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALUCTTA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AXEONSUL MADRAS 2393

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES DURING PRESS

CENSORSHIP STATE OF EMERGENCY - INDIA

1. BBC -- CONSIDERED A PRIME CANDIDATE OF CLOSURE DURING THE CURRENT STATE OF EMERGENCY, BBC HAS TONED DOWN CONSIDERABLY IN ITS REPORTING. ON MONDAY, THE EMBASSY WAS TOLD, BBC WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT A REPLY TO THE STRONG CRITICISM OF THEIR REPORTING BY A GROUP OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE NEW DELHI PRESS. IF WRITLBN, THE STATEMENT HAS YET TO BE SEEN OR PUBLISHED. BBC, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO HAVE A MORE SECURE STATUS.

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2. NBC-NEWS -- ASIAN NEWS DIRECTOR AL CHAMBERS HAS PRESENTED A LETTER TO THE NEW MINISTER OF INFORMATION V.C. SHUKLA STATING THAT NBC HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO TRY WHENEVER POSSIBLE TO OBSERVE THE CENSORSHIP GUIDELINES BUT WANTS IT UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY CONSIDER THEM EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND LIMITING. IN A MOVE TO PROTECT THEIR INDIAN TECHNICAL AND REPORTING STAFF THE LETTER STATES, "IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE BY THE AMERICAN NEWSMEN FOR NBC IN INDIA."

3. PRESS BRIEFINGS -- THE PRESS BRIEFINGS INSTITUTED WITH THE START OF CENSORSHIP AND PROMISED TO NEWSMEN AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF OFFICIAL, INFORMATION WERE CANCELLED AS OF JUNE 30. DR. A.R. BAJI, THE PRESS SPOKESMAN SAYS THEY WILL BE CALLED AS REQUIRED AND INFORMATION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED INDIVIDUALLY OR BY RELEASE.

4. PETITION BY INDIAN JOURNALISTS -- THERE WAS SOME TALK OVER THE WEEKEND OF A PETITION CONDEMNING PRESS CENSORSHIP AND SIGNED BY 59 MEMBERS OF THE PRESS CLUB IN NEW DELHI FOLLOWING A QUICKLY CALLED INFORMAL MEETING ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON. SIGNATORS INCLUDED SEVERAL SENIOR EDITORS, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THE PETITION WAS EVER SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT.

5. WASHINGTON POST -- BEFORE LEAVING NEW DELHI ON HIS EXPULSION BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT, CORRESPONDENT LEW SIMONS TOLD A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HE WOULD BE GOING TO BANGKOK TO ESTABLISH A BUREAU THERE FOR HIS PAPER. IT SEEMS HE WOULD NOT STAY ON TO OPERATE IT, RATHER JUST SET IT UP.

6. VISITING JOURNALISTS: BILL STEWART, TIME HAS ARRIVED TO WORK ON A PROPOSED INDIA COVER STORY FOR THE STATESIDE EDITION. DANSUTHERLAND, CRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, HAS CHECKED IN ALSO. STEWART LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIVED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A VERY SYMPATHETIC HEARING FROM THE PM'S PRESS SECRETARY, SHARDAPRASAD ON HIS REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PM AND HIS NOTICE THAT TIME IS PLANNING A COVER STORY ON THE PM. DR. BAJI ALSO TOLD STEWART HE WOULD LEAN OVER BACKWARD TO CLEAR HIS COPY ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT PROMISE IN ADVANCE TO CLEAR THE ENTIRE TEXT.
SAXBE

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